

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method and apparatus are disclosed for automating the task of adding video content to a video server. Instructions implemented in the video server cause the video server to automatically examine each new file added to the server to determine whether the new file contains a video program. If the new file contains a video program, the video server examines the data structure of the new file to determine the format used to encode the video program. The video server attaches an indication of the encoding format to the video program and adds the video program to a list of video content available to users having access to the video server. The video server is disclosed as accessible from a client computer over an IP network, although other arrangements are possible.

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